

REMARKS

Applicants hereby amend claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, and 14-15 to eliminate multiple dependencies and correct antecedent basis. No new matter is added thereby. Claims 1-15 are pending and presented for examination.

Applicants hereby amend the specification to add a priority claim and cross-reference to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2002/013351, filed December 20, 2002, under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

CONCLUSION

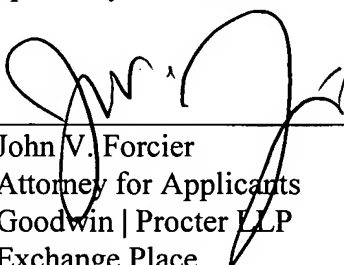
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and allow all pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any issues regarding this matter.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessitated by this Preliminary Amendment. In the event, however, that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 42,545

Customer No. 051414
Tel. No.: (617) 570-1607
Fax No.: (617) 523-1231



John V. Forcier
Attorney for Applicants
Goodwin | Procter LLP
Exchange Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02109